

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

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TO INVESTIGATE GOVERNMENT COMPETITION

A special committee to investigate government competition with private enterprise is authorized by a resolution adopted by the House on May 31. The committee is to report to the House not later than December 15.

DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN RATES ON GLASS AND TIN PACKAGES DEFINED

In the case involving the relation between rates on various food products in glass and in tin, in Official and Illinois classifications, the Interstate Commerce Commission has found that the proposed reduced less-than-carload ratings on products in glass are not justified, with certain exceptions (liquid cooking oil and peanut oil) in Illinois classification. The Commission has therefore ordered the suspended schedules cancelled, but without prejudice to the establishment of ratings on certain commodities in Official classification which will reflect the relation between glass and tin packages previously prescribed in the Indian Packing case.

The suspended schedules cancelled by this decision would have reduced the ratings on all glass-packed foods dealt with in the Indian Packing case, and a number of others in addition, to the same basis as that provided for the same foods in tin containers. The Indian Packing case decision fixed a one-class differential between products in glass and in tin, this differential averaging about 28 per cent.

In the case now decided the Commission found that the present ratings in the Official classification for certain commodities in glass packages exceed those for tin packages by more than the one-class differential, and it is on these commodities that it leaves the way open to changes in ratings. The commodities are clam juice, roasted coffee, lard and lard substitutes, prepared macaroni, spaghetti and vermicelli, condensed or evaporated milk, molasses, cooking oil not otherwise indexed by name, sauerkraut or sauerkraut juice, soups, unmedicated syrups not otherwise indexed by name, canned vegetables in boxes and in crates, and dried vegetables.

DEATH OF HERBERT L. HERRINGTON

Canners everywhere will be grieved to learn of the death of Herbert L. Herrington, President and General Manager of the Utah Canning Company, at Ogden on the morning of May 28th, after several weeks' illness.

Mr. Herrington though quiet in manner possessed unusual force of character and soundness in judgment. Withal, he had a genial personality that endeared him to a large circle of friends. Always active in the work of the Association, he will be best remembered by the canning industry as the originator of Canned Foods Week.

TENTATIVE SUCCOTASH GRADES

Tentative grades for canned succotash have been prepared by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics and sent to canners and others for consideration and comment. The tentative grades are neither official nor recommended in their present form.

In general, the tentative grades provide that not less than 20 per cent by weight of the mixture of sweet corn and lima beans shall consist of lima beans, and the grade of the succotash is determined by the grade of the sweet corn and lima beans used. In the standard grade it would be permissible to use soaked lima beans, but it is provided that the certificates of grade shall indicate the fact.

Succotash canners should communicate their suggestions and criticisms to the Bureau, or to the National Canners Association, which will lay them before the Bureau. The draft of the tentative grades follows:

DEFINITION

Canned succotash is the canned vegetable product composed of properly prepared lima beans and properly prepared cream style sweet corn, of which not less than 20 per cent by weight shall consist of lima beans; with or without the addition of sugar and/or salt, packed in hermetically sealed containers, and sterilized by heat.

GRADES FOR CANNED SUCCOTASH

U. S. Grade A (Fancy) Canned Succotash consists of the proportions outlined above of U. S. Grade A (Fancy) lima beans and U. S. Grade A (Fancy) cream style sweet corn.

U. S. Grade B (Extra Standard) Canned Succotash consists of the proportions outlined above of U. S. Grade B (Extra Standard) cream style sweet corn and U. S. Grade B (Extra Standard) lima beans.

U. S. Grade C (Standard) Canned Succotash consists of the propor-

tions stated above of U. S. Grade C (Standard) cream style sweet corn and U. S. Grade C (Standard) lima beans, or soaked lima beans.*

Off-Grade (Substandard) Canned Succotash consists of cream style sweet corn or lima beans, either or both of which fall below U. S. Grade C (Standard) quality, or fail to meet any other requirements of these grades.

PREREQUISITES TO GRADING

Condition of Container.—Containers shall be sound and clean. If the containers are metal, they shall be free from rust and serious dents and the ends shall be flat or concave.

Condition of Package and Label.—If cased, the canned succotash shall be packed in clean, unbroken packages. If labeled, the labels on container and package shall be clean, and shall be neatly and securely affixed, and shall comply in all respects with the requirements of the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

Fill of Container.—Cans of succotash shall be filled to the maximum capacity consistent with the maintenance of quality. Canned succotash will be considered as of standard fill if the entire contents of the cans occupy 90 per cent or more of the volume of the closed container.

A certificate of grade covering canned succotash not meeting the above requirement shall bear in a conspicuous place the words "slack filled."

The maximum headspace allowable in the sizes commonly used in packing succotash is as follows:

Can Size	Maximum capacity of can (in ounces)	Maximum headspace allowable (in 16ths of inches) measured from top of double seam
2 11/16" x 4"	10.94	8.0
3 7/16" x 4 9/16"	20.55	8.9
6 3/16" x 7"	100.43	12.8

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The week ended May 31 was cooler than normal over much the greater portion of the country, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau. The first half of the week had widespread rains, but thereafter the weather was mostly fair. Warm weather crops, in general, made slow to only fair progress in Central and Northern states. The week brought light to heavy frosts, with more or less local damage to tender vegetation in most of the more northern states from New England to the interior of the Pacific Northwest, but harm, in general, was not serious. Elsewhere garden and truck are largely doing well, except for a rather general need of rain in central sections.

ELECTROS OF SEAL AVAILABLE AT LOW COST

As noted in last week's Information Letter, the Association will furnish to members upon application matrices of the statement and seal that they may use on their sales contracts. Since

* U. S. Grade C (Standard) Canned Succotash may be prepared from soaked lima beans, but the certificate of grade shall indicate the fact.

this announcement was made the Association has ascertained that if ordered in quantities, electrotypes can be secured so that they can be furnished to members at a cost of 40 cents post-paid, or about half the cost of a single electrotype. Members who desire an electrotype in place of a matrix, so that they need not go to the expense of having an electrotype cast from the matrix, are requested to advise the Association at once whether they desire the electrotype instead of the matrix. Below is a reproduction of the design in the size for which cuts or matrices may be obtained.



TRUCK CROP SHIPMENTS

Combined movement of 35 products during the week ended May 28 was about 16,615 cars, compared with 20,060 during the same period in 1931.

The season for California plums and fresh prunes opened with 65 cars for the week, only one-fourth as many as last spring. Cherry shipments from California increased to 195 cars. Movement of beans, cucumbers, carrots and peas was quite active, and forwardings of green corn were increasing from Texas and Florida.

On May 1 the early peach crop in 10 southern states showed a slightly higher condition than the month before. General average for all the states was 34 per cent of normal, compared with 71 per cent a year ago. Assuming average conditions from now until harvest time, a crop of 8,600,000 bushels of early peaches is in prospect, which would be the smallest crop in those states in recent years.

Strawberry production in 10 late shipping states is forecast at 3,646,000 crates of 24 quarts, or 9 per cent more than last year's crop. Increases over last season are indicated for all of these states except New York and Pennsylvania, but the latter state shows only a very slight decrease. A fairly large crop is in prospect in the Pacific Northwest.

Tomato production in five second-early states is forecast at 4,161,000 bushels, as against 3,857,000 last year. Mississippi expects 1,350,000 bushels or one-fourth more than in 1931, and parts of Texas outside the lower Valley may have slightly fewer

tomatoes than last season, or 2,244,000 bushels. Acreage of tomatoes in the intermediate and late shipping states is about 8 per cent greater than last year. Shipments from Texas increased last week to about 300 cars, as various sections of the state became active. Mississippi began suddenly with 110 cars, and first shipments were reported from South Carolina and Ohio. The output of Florida decreased to 165, while California shipped 15 carloads. Imports from Mexico totaled less than 200 cars. Although the week's domestic movement reached 600 cars, it was only one-third that of a year ago, when the season was earlier.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	May 22-28 1932	May 15-21 1932	May 24-30 1931	Total this sea- son thru May 20	Total last sea- son thru May 30	Total last season
Apples, total	407	439	298	100,422	108,977	109,794
Western states	312	338	244	46,544	65,812	66,538
Eastern states	95	101	54	53,878	43,165	43,256
Asparagus	50	69	58	4,055	3,584	3,866
Beans, snap and lima ..	517	454	678	8,297	6,133	9,344
Beets	59	62	63	1,117	1,373	1,703
Cabbage	463	510	611	12,039	17,369	37,817
Carrots:						
1932 season	343	461	291	6,503	7,729	11,482
1931 season	4	4	31	11,482	12,262	12,437
Cauliflower	45	101	3	9,725	9,598	9,611
Cherries	194	140	185	408	880	1,872
Corn, green	27	7	211	41	411	2,237
Cucumbers	463	526	441	1,385	2,354	6,480
Greens (except spinach)	2	5	8	2,977	1,620	1,659
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	460	515	603	1,429	16,662	28,557
Imports	0	1	1	34	54	55
Pears	15	20	14	20,084	28,807	28,828
Pens, green	306	330	420	3,560	4,208	7,186
Peppers:						
Domestic	44	33	45	1,895	1,743	2,818
Imports	2	5	3	197	317	319
Spinach	19	55	8	8,148	9,303	9,768
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	595	399	1,866	6,900	7,705	27,843
Imports	198	240	0	6,392	5,755	5,755
Turnips and Rutabagas:						
1932 season	1	3	2	106	428	1,344
1931 season—						
Domestic	1	1	1	1,344	1,651	1,668
Imports	1	4	0	1,378	377	914

POISON BAIT FOR CUT WORMS

Cut worms have a sweet tooth and consequently fall an easy prey to poison baits in which the poison is skillfully obscured by syrup or some similar sugary preparation, according to the New York State Experiment Station, which recommends a mixture of bran, syrup, lemons, water and paris green sprinkled about the base of plants as a cheap and effective cure for this pest.

The syrup and lemons serve to attract the worms to the bait, while the bran adds bulk and the paris green acts as an inexpensive and fairly quick-acting poison.

BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ended Saturday; weekly average 1923-1925=100)

	1932			1931		1930	
	May 28	May 21	May 14	May 30	May 23	May 31	May 24
Composite Index:*							
New York Times		55.7	56.1	70.7	76.4	93.7	93.5
Business Week		56.7	57.8	78.8	78.5	93.1	95.2
Freight car loadings		53.8	54.0	74.2	78.7	89.7	97.0
Wholesale prices (Fisher's):							
All commodities	60.2	61.1	61.4	70.3	71.0	87.8	88.4
Agricultural products	42.7	42.9	43.4	60.3	60.9	91.6	93.2
Non-agricultural products	64.3	65.6	65.8	73.7	74.0	85.6	85.6
Bank debits outside N. Y. City	58.8	66.6	62.0	89.8	90.9	113.1	121.6
Bond prices	76.0	79.5	82.2	106.3	106.7	106.4	106.3
Stock prices	44.7	49.8	50.1	120.0	131.0	234.1	231.7
Interest rates:							
Call money	60.6	60.6	60.6	36.4	36.4	72.7	72.7
Time money	34.3	34.3	38.2	40.0	40.0	88.6	88.6
Business failures	174.0	176.0	162.7	129.7	126.3	102.2	117.9

* Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended May 21	515,450	193,544	181,139	140,767
Previous week	517,007	192,563	181,562	143,542
Corresponding week, 1931	754,738	298,160	222,256	234,313
Corresponding week, 1930	929,606	363,097	246,273	319,336

FRENCH QUOTA SYSTEM

As a result of the quota negotiations which Ambassador Walter E. Edge has been carrying on for some weeks with the French Government, certain rules, effective immediately, which will serve as a temporary measure of interim relief, will be observed by the French Government in the fixing of new quotas affecting American exports to France, according to an announcement by the Department of State. These rules are in substance as follows:

1. Most favored nation treatment, on the basis of importations, will be accorded American products.
2. When quotas are of especial interest to American industries, the latter will be given an opportunity to participate in conversations between industrialists relating to the fixing of the quota in question.
3. Goods en route at the time a quota is announced will be permitted entry and charged against future quota allotments.
4. A license system in respect of industrial products is provided for. The existing license system used for agricultural products will be continued.
5. Statistics with regard to the current status of importations subject to quota will be currently at the disposal of importers.

The following excerpt from Trade Promotion Series No. 115 of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce sets out briefly the French tariff policy and the treatment of American goods under that policy.

The French tariff policy is one of protection for domestic industries on the one hand and of reciprocity or "bargaining" for the benefit of export industries on the other. This is radically different from the tariff policy of the United States, based on the unconditional most-favored-nation clause without provision for reciprocal concessions in import duties (excepting, of course, our treaty of reciprocity with Cuba). As yet, it has not been found possible to reconcile these differences sufficiently to permit the negotiation of a most-favored-nation treaty of commerce between the two countries. Consequently, the United States does not enjoy the lowest rates of French import duty on all of its products.

Several countries do receive uniformly the minimum schedule, or lowest rate, of the French Government tariff for their products; the most important among these are Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. Other countries have agreements with France providing for the minimum duties on certain products and intermediate or higher duties on others; this group includes Canada, Spain, Finland, and Latvia.

The treatment accorded products from the United States resembles that accorded the latter group; that is, American goods receive the minimum rates under certain tariff classifications, intermediate rates on others, and the maximum rates on still another group. The basis for this treatment is certain French legislation of 1910. In 1927 there occurred a general increase in French tariff rates to meet monetary conditions resulting from the de facto stabilization of the franc, and to readjust the tariff scale, which in some cases had declined to a fraction of the pre-war height in relation to the value of the goods on account of the depreciation of the franc. Another purpose in raising the tariff barrier was to grant certain French industries additional protection against their German competitors, to whose products the minimum schedule of the tariff was accorded by the Franco-German commercial treaty of 1927.

Following this tariff readjustment and the conclusion of the Franco-German commercial treaty, the very high rates of the new French maximum tariff schedule were applied to a large number of American products previously enjoying the benefit of the intermediate rates. There followed negotiations between the United States and French Governments, resulting in an informal agreement under which, by the French decrees of November 15, 1927, March 15, May 12, and June 28, 1928, American products were reestablished in approximately the same relative position under the French customs tariff as before.

CAMPING WITH CANNED FOODS

With this issue of the Information Letter there is mailed a new leaflet prepared by the Home Economics Division, this being the eighth in the series. The Association is distributing copies of this leaflet to the headquarters of the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls, and making mailings to individual members of the Camp Directors Association and directors of Y. M. C. A. camps.

EXPORTS OF CANNED FOODS IN APRIL

Shipments of canned foods to foreign countries in April showed general decreases when compared with figures for the corresponding month last year. Increased shipments were reported, however, for asparagus, tomatoes, apricots, loganberries, other canned berries, grapefruit and prunes.

Articles	April, 1931		April, 1932	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,543,698	\$555,668	953,017	\$198,607
Beef	132,242	45,501	78,526	20,334
Pork	1,118,421	424,439	664,359	145,730
Sausage	97,836	24,239	61,961	13,742
Other	195,199	61,489	148,141	18,801
Canned vegetables, total	3,430,280	303,819	1,468,182	149,021
Asparagus	471,287	70,209	555,420	79,813
Baked beans, and pork and beans	921,711	44,163	129,257	6,926
Corn	317,388	27,690	85,057	6,070
Peas	455,756	41,315	108,415	8,614
Soups	801,731	83,668	175,877	21,484
Tomatoes	155,415	11,284	263,723	13,871
Other	312,992	25,490	149,833	12,243
Condensed milk	1,853,283	317,774	1,168,000	105,974
Evaporated milk	5,311,415	437,516	3,207,246	210,044
Canned fruits, total	16,304,564	1,322,237	11,853,488	826,522
Apples and applesauce	1,174,147	54,226	686,265	29,128
Apricots	761,705	68,573	1,386,953	91,487
Loganberries	31,774	3,091	470,115	34,314
Other berries	14,824	2,651	137,548	6,585
Cherries	72,740	10,743	24,984	3,446
Fruits for salad	2,106,126	273,019	1,548,306	167,580
Grapefruit	784,417	54,281	1,150,622	60,798
Peaches	3,398,687	265,828	3,120,281	194,692
Pears	4,819,261	318,865	2,172,688	153,680
Pineapple	2,888,273	244,025	1,024,667	74,018
Prunes	32,354	3,092	72,030	5,287
Other	220,250	23,243	59,029	5,507
Salmon	1,388,944	239,995	1,005,296	84,547
Sardines	5,412,419	336,187	2,149,406	121,732

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